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Volume 27, Issue 5

Paralog

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter

Serving Oregon, Idaho and SW Washington



"Serving Those Who Served"

www.TriStatePVA.org



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RESOURCES

ID Cards www.vets.gov	eBenefits www.benefits.va.gov
eVetRecords www.archives.gov	Women Veterans Health Care 1-855-VA-Woman
Vocational Rehab & Employment www.gibill.gov	US Disaster Hotline (800) 626 4959

PVA Tri-State Chapter Mission Statement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter, incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. We serve the needs of our Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and help them enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

Tri-State Chapter, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, PVA Tri-state Chapter relies on grants and donations from members of the public.

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.

PVA Tri-State Chapter - 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

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Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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Cover Photo: Lithia Park, Ashland OR
Courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

President News



2023 National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Larry Gardner – President

I would like to start out by saying congratulations to all the veterans who competed in the National Veterans Wheelchair games in Portland, Oregon. It was an honor to be the host chapter. We had our largest team of athletes attend this year. I am proud of all our athletes. They showed true sportsmanship. Their hard work and dedication paid off. They even brought home 26 medals! I am grateful for everyone at PVA National and the Veterans Dept. for all their hard work and many long hours to make it a very successful event. It was a great honor to carry the torch and light the cauldron for Opening Ceremonies! It was a moment I will never forget!



Our summer has been moving way too fast. With Deep Sea Fishing trips, car shows, our annual Trap

Shoot Fundraiser, Gold Cup Golf Tournament, fairs and festivals. There is always something going on here at the Chapter. I hope everyone is staying cool and surviving the heat.

This year was our first time being invited to the Great Oregon Steam Up in Brooks. We set up a booth and enjoyed seeing the old trackers, steam engines and military vehicles. There was something for everyone! I look forward to attending again next year.



The Oregon State Fair started August 25th and will soon end on Sept. 4th. We will be unveiling our new raffle vehicle Sept. 3rd at our booth. Tickets will be \$10 each or 5 for \$40. We will draw the winning ticket Sept. 4, 2024 at next year's State Fair. We will also be selling our own PVA Tri-State insulated

tumblers and water bottles. Please stop by our booth say "Hello" and help support our Chapter.

Next, on September 16th at the Chinook Winds Casino, in Lincoln City, will be our annual Membership Banquet. Please call the office to RSVP and pick your entree. This will be a great time to meet other members, enjoy live music and win some prizes. (See page 8 for more info.) This will also be the same weekend of the Military Celebration of Honor that will be set up in the casino parking lot with lots of military displays, information booths etc. It is all very interesting to see. I know you will enjoy this event along with our Members Banquet, so come over and join us for a great weekend of fun and food. If anyone plans on staying over call and book your rooms now. They have a limited amount of ADA rooms available. Don't forget about using your yearly Recreation Fund to help cover expenses.



Congratulations to Patrick for winning our Eagle Raffle! He bought his ticket from the Portland Roadster Show and drove all the way down from Vancouver, WA to pick it up.



The Tri-State Chapter is still in need of volunteers to fill specific roles. First one is a Membership Director to help with recruiting new members, monitor current memberships, oversee appropriate membership records are maintained and report to National PVA when requested.

Another important role is Central Oregon Ambassador to work with our members in Central and Eastern Oregon. For more information or if you're interested please call the office at 503-362-7998

Stay Tuned for the Next:

Tri-State Chapter Air Gun Competition

**October date TBD
11 am to 3 pm**

**Location:
Albany Rifle and Pistol Club
29999 Saddle Butte Rd, Shedd OR**



NRA

Executive Director Update



Tom Hurt – Executive Director



Greetings from your Chapter Office, Summer is just flying by, we hope you all are being able to enjoy this time of year. It seemed like we went right from winter into the heat of summer. As I mentioned last Paralog, we have been moving forward with getting your new Chapter office remodeled and ready for you to enjoy. Our estimate is that we will be moved into the new facility by the first quarter of 2024. There is quite a bit of work to do: build out the administration offices; design and build the Board Room; remodel one of the restrooms; build out two (2) additional ADA Restrooms; build a kitchenette, and build out the Recreation Room.



The Recreation Room is very exciting! This is something that your Chapter office has never had. You will be able to come to the Chapter office for

Table Tennis, Bocchia Ball, possibly Billiards, indoor Air Gun Range, and Archery. There are a ton of different opportunities with this new location.

Your Chapter leadership has set up a Building Fundraiser on the Website if you know of people willing to donate to these efforts, please direct them to www.tristatepva.org/donate and scroll down to the Building Remodel Fundraiser.



As a reminder your Election Ballots are due into the Chapter office no later than Sept 8th at the close of business. This is your opportunity to elect our next Executive Board and Board of Directors for the next fiscal year. These are important leadership roles that will determine the direction of the Chapter. We will install the new Board Members at the Members Banquet on Sept.16th.

You don't want to miss this special occasion. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to our Board Members.

There is another time sensitive reminder: if you have a Recreation Fund request, it must be submitted to the office **NO LATER** than Sept 25th. Our Rec. Fund program is probably the most popular program we have going on. If you are not familiar with this program here is a little bit about it; Every fiscal year (Oct 1st thru Sept 30th) you are allowed up to \$300.00 reimbursement for equipment, outings, trips, hobbies, meals out, pretty much anything that you do for recreation. All we ask is that you submit your receipts and a paragraph or two telling what you did for recreation. There is one caveat, the expense must be purchased and used in the same fiscal year. You can find out more about the Rec. Fund on page 12 of this Paralog.



Another great event in September, is the Stand Down at the YMCA, in Salem, on the 13th. The mission of the Stand Down is to bring equipment and services to homeless vets and veterans in need. This is an annual event put on by the Vet Center and SILVA. Last year we had huge turnout from the community. Services that be available to veterans are: legal, medical and dental, employment, pet care, housing assistance, job fair and even barbers. PVA Tri-State will have a booth to offer accessible equipment for

those that need it. For more information about the Stand Down please see the flyer on page 26.

It is not too early to plan for Veterans Day. It is right around the corner. We will be having a float in the Albany Veterans Day Parade. This parade is the largest Veterans Day Parade west of the Mississippi and goes through downtown historic Albany, OR Please call the office and reserve your spot on the float. We want to make sure we have enough spots for everyone.



As you are aware it takes many helping hands to keep all of the programs going for our paralyzed veterans. I do know that your Chapter leadership is looking for a Membership Director position to be filled. Please keep in mind as the Membership Director, the person filling that role doesn't have to be a member they just need a heart for veterans. So, with that being said we are looking to fill the following: Membership Director, Sports Director, individual Sports Coordinators, and a Central Oregon Ambassador.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Members Banquet on the 16th in Lincoln City..... See you then!





MEMBERS BANQUET

SATURDAY SEPT 16, 2023

RSVP BY: SEPT 5, 2023

- Hotel Reservations
888-244-6665
(Rec Fund Can Be Used)

- Check In: 1pm
- Social Time: 1- 3 pm
- Dinner Served: 3pm

- Limited ADA
Rooms Available
(Ask about
Special Pricing)

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- \$39 per month for 48 months at 9.9% on a Pride Go Go Elite Traveler scooter

MS Liaison Corner



Dan helping to spot at PVA Tri-State's Air Gun Competition



By: Dan Service – MS Liaison/ Treasurer

Hello, my fellow PVA Tri-State members – I want to remind you of our Membership Banquet that will be held at the Chinook Winds Casino, in Lincoln City, OR. Hopefully this will be the last time we will need to send money to rent a place to hold our banquet.



Our Chapter has purchased a building in Silverton, OR, that is large enough to not only hold our banquets, but we are looking at adding areas to be able to: 1. Have our own Air Gun Rifle and Pistol Range, 2. Have a Bocce Ball Court, 3. Offices, 4. Board Room, 5. Storage areas for our Raffle Vehicles, 6. An area for Donation equipment, and many other things like Pool Tables, Ping Pong tables, much more!

This is really great, but I would like to ENCOURAGE everyone (and

their caregiver) to take a look at volunteering at one of the events we have, and other events we participate in. What this will entail is, 1. Make sure if you (and your caregiver) are participating, you have each filled out a volunteer form and send it to our office so it can be filed with the PVA National office, 2. Make sure you contact the office and let them know what events you want to be at, 3. Keeping track of your mileage to and from the event (you will get paid milage), show up and have a good time.

When the month is over and you are at home, send into the office your milage, the amount of time you spent from leaving home, participating at the event, and arriving home. This will be sent in on the Volunteer Hours & Expense Voucher, which you can pick up at the office, or it can be emailed to you. This voucher will need to be turned in to the office by the 3rd of the next month.

So, you are wondering, “What am I supposed to do at these events?” This will all depend on the event. One important thing is to be able to tell people our purpose, and mission statement. You can find the statement on page 2 of the Paralog, and you can

always direct them to the mission statement we have at most all events. What I do when I attend any event is look pretty. We are there to represent PVA, and especially the Tri-State Chapter. We represent those who are members, and have an injury, or disease that affects the spinal cord. Something most people do not know, is if a person has Multiple Sclerosis, the chance of having spinal problems are great, which will affect their ability to walk. Do not worry about handling the money, we will have one person per shift taking care of the money. We do our best to keep our volunteers at 4 hour shifts, and if they stick around 6 hours or longer, a meal will be available for them.

Some of the nice things about participating in any of these events is that we get to meet great people. It gets us out of the house. We may be able to attend a concert put on at an event. If you have a desire to participate in, and attending

the annual Advocacy meetings in Washington, DC with your State government leaders, that trip will be paid for, you just need to go and participate (your caregiver can go also).



I guess what I am saying is that being actively involved is something that will not only benefit you, it will give our caregivers a change also. We look forward to getting to know you.

National MS Society

Diet, Exercise & Healthy Behaviors (from nationalmssociety.org)

For a person living with MS, physical wellness involves much more than disease and symptom management. Research shows that a healthy diet, exercise, not smoking, ongoing preventive care and management of other medical conditions not only contribute to overall health but can also impact a person's MS progression and lifespan.

MS management is an essential component of optimal physical wellness. Managing MS includes: modifying the disease course, treating relapses (also called exacerbations or attacks) managing symptoms and ongoing rehabilitation to promote functional mobility, safety, independence and participation at home, at work and in the community.

An ongoing collaboration with your primary care provider and MS healthcare provider can help ensure a comprehensive health management plan that doesn't take a back seat to your MS, including — age-related preventive healthcare and vaccinations, and careful attention to any co-existing medical conditions that can affect overall health and lifespan, as well as the course of MS.

Integrating healthy behaviors into your lifestyle can be hard work even without the added challenges of MS. In addition to working with your health care team, recruit friends and family to support you. Talk to them about your goals and ask for their support in helping you eat well, engage in physical activity, stop smoking, get out of the house more frequently or to do whatever you are finding challenging. You may also want to explore working with a wellness coach. Professionally trained wellness coaches can offer you strategies to live your best life and support you along your wellness journey. Find out more online at www.nationalmssociety.org



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ABILITY CENTER



UNITED ACCESS



Recreation Fund Reimbursement

(Voting Members Only)

PVA Tri-State Chapter voting members are eligible to **RECEIVE \$300** each fiscal year through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund. It begins **October 1st** and runs through **September 25th** each year.

Include Name, Address, Phone Number, your Legible Receipts (legible photo copy is ok) and a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too (digital pictures are best), they may make it into the Paralog. Please note: drugs and alcohol will not be reimbursed.

◆ **Eating Out** ◆ **Movies** ◆ **Games** ◆ **Hobby Supplies** ◆ **Motel** ◆ **Sports**
◆ **Event Tickets** ◆ **Guns** ◆ **Trips** ◆ **Vacation Expenses (lodging food, gas etc)** ◆
PVA Tri-State Events etc

All receipts must be dated and used within this current fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30). Rec Funds **NOT** received in a timely matter will be denied.

Mail or email to: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - tristatepva@tristatepva.org
Please be sure to include your address and phone number. Your request must be received in the office no later than **September 25th**. Earlier is better in case of any problems.

Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation Fund.



Especially now,
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and your gift is tax-deductible.

www.pva.careasy.org



Get Paid to Have Fun!



\$300 Rec Fund Reimbursement



My husband and I took our boys to the Southern Oregon coast in beautiful Brookings. We enjoyed the gorgeous scenery of the Oregon Redwoods as well as spent some time on Harris Beach. The weather was absolutely fantastic! We will definitely be making more trips in the future.

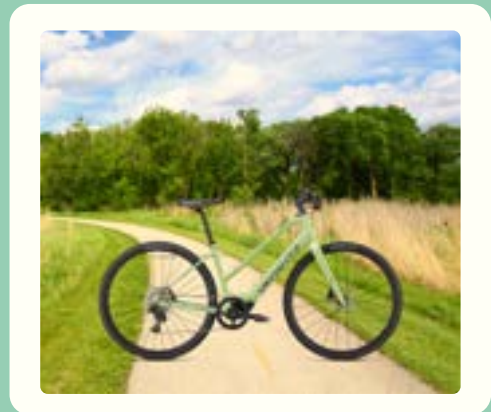
Thank you for the generosity of the Recreation Fund! It is greatly appreciated!

Andrea H.

Dear PVA Tri-State Chapter,

I recently bought an e-bike. I am enjoying riding it and it's really helping me to get outdoors and keep moving. I would like to submit this for a request for a grant from the Recreation Fund to help with the cost, please.

Thank you,
Harriet S.



My wife, Monika and I recently traveled to my 60th High School Reunion in Hope, British Columbia, Canada. Along the way we stopped to see our grandchildren in Everett, WA. I had the opportunity to visit old friends and make new ones, thanks to the Recreation Fund. I otherwise could not have attended.

Thank you for all the services you provide to the Veterans!

Robert M.

Dear PVA Tri-State,

Thank you for the Rec Fund. I have attached the receipt from a dinner that I took my family to thank them for all they do for me.

Being disabled, they help me out doing things that I can't do for myself. So as a thank you to them, I treated them to a nice meal.

Thank you again PVA for making this possible for me.
Daniel G



PVA Tri-State,

I played music on CDs for Riddles Sawdust Jubilee, June 24th. I drove from Eugene with all the equipment. I picked up my two highschool aged grandsons to pack the speakers. They live in Canyonville. I had a good visit with them. They were good help.

After the Jubilee, I took them to Burger King (their choice) and back home. Then I stayed at 7-Feathers for the good night's sleep, I would not have gotten at their house. It was very pleasant on the top floor, east wing. I visited more with my grandsons on June 25th. I got them milk shakes that day. Then I drove back to Eugene, well rested.

Thank you,
Barbara B.

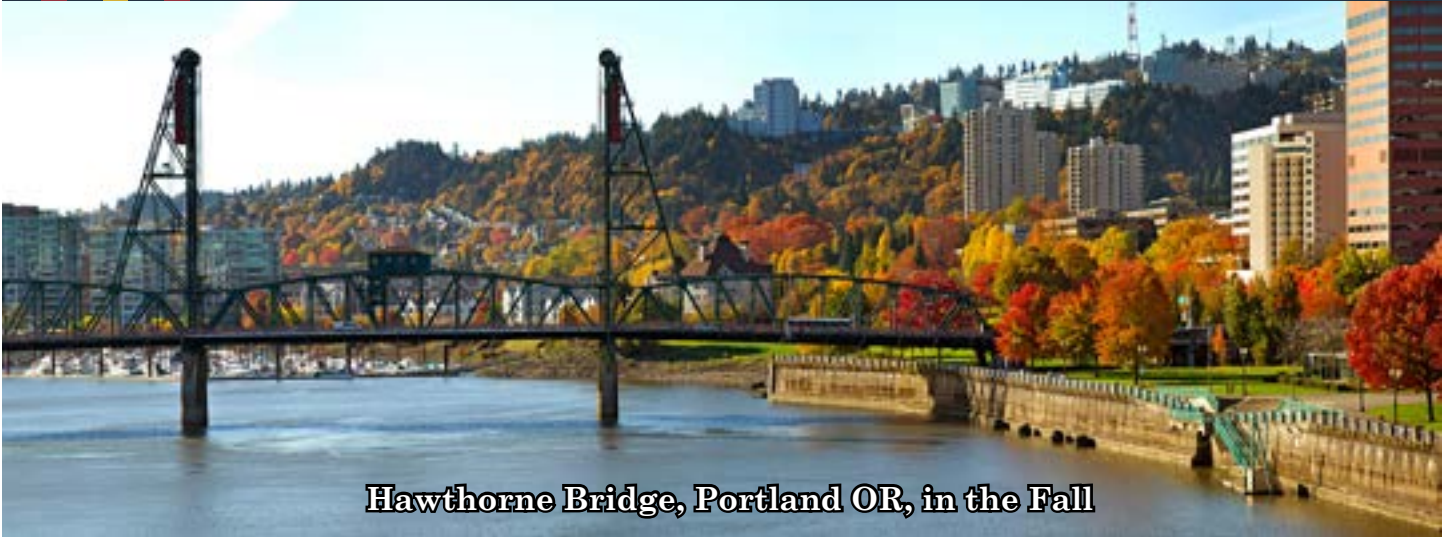
Dear PVA Tri-State Chapter,

Thank you for the Rec Fund. This year my husband and I enjoyed visiting friends in Banks, OR. We spent 9 nights with our friend, Betty, at the World Mark in Seaside. We had great food and went to the Hand Radio Convention held at the Seaside Convention Center. We had a wonderful 2 week trip!

Thanks!
Dinah W.



National Service Officer Update



Hawthorne Bridge, Portland OR, in the Fall



By: Matthew Paige - National Service Officer

I hope this finds the members of PVA'S Tri-State Chapter well. There are two points of interest I would like to point out for our members. One is an update on the VA's Clothing Allowance benefit and the other upcoming change to eligible rules for the adaptive auto grant.

As many of you might know on December 29, 2022, Congress enacted the Cleland-Dole Veterans Benefits and Healthcare Improvement Act of 2022 under PL 117-328 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023). Under Section 201, improvements to the process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Clothing Allowance Claims, were included. 38 U.S.C. § 1162 requires VA to make recurring payments for a clothing allowance to qualifying Veterans until the Veteran elects to no longer receive such payments or until VA determines the Veteran is no longer eligible for such payments.

What does this mean for our members? Veterans no longer have to apply by August 1 of the benefit year to receive payment for their VA Clothing Allowance. Veterans will have until the end of the fiscal year (September 30) to submit their application for that benefit year.

Veterans who received a clothing allowance payment in 2022 will receive the same number of clothing allowances in 2023, without having to apply this year or in subsequent years. After this, their clothing allowance payment will become an annual continuous / recurring payment.



First time applicants, applicants who previously received the benefit but did not apply for the 2022 benefit year, or applicants who received payment in 2022 but want additional clothing allowances will have until the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2023) to submit applications for their 2023 benefit. If the clothing allowance is approved, payment will also become an annual continuous / recurring payment.

The VA is finalizing an updated letter to send to veterans who received the clothing allowance in 2022 regarding the updated application requirements. For more information you can visit the VA website at <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/clothing-allowance/>

PVA's Portland Office is currently undertaking a review of records for our Veterans who received the adaptive auto grant. Advancing



Uniform Transportation Opportunities (AUTO) for Veterans Act. The Bill that was passed in January 2023 will allow for eligible veterans to re-apply for additional Auto Grants (AG) on a regular and recurring basis. The end goal is that eventually get to point (in 2033) where qualified veterans can re-apply for an AG every 10 years. The same eligibility criteria as the VA currently uses will still apply.



Reminder:
Receipts for Rec Fund Reimbursement are due by Sept. 25.
Don't Miss Out!
(See page 13)



September 11, 2023
FREE for Members!

Mark Your Calendars

SALMON FISHING TRIP

** Check in at 6am**

RSVP by Sept 1, 2023

- * Fishing license required
- * Purchase online at www.myodf.com
- * Complementary coffee is provided
- * Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks
- * Don't forget about the Rec Fund to help cover expenses
- * **Bring a guest for \$75!**

DOCKSIDE CHARTERS 

Please Call 503-362-7998 at Least 10 Days Prior to Reserve your Spot!

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On the Court with John



By: Scarlett Guerra - Graphic Designer

On August 10th, I had the honor of meeting a local member: John McClaren, at the Salem Tennis & Swim Club. John is a Navy veteran who was born and raised in Hawaii. His family has a history of serving in the military. His father and grandfather both served in the Navy, as well as an uncle that served in the Army. He has been married for 39 years and has two adult grown daughters. His wife and daughters play tennis too.

John was injured 31 years ago, while flying a naval fighter plane after being ejected and instantly becoming paralyzed. He played tennis prior to his injury and has been playing in a wheelchair “ever since”. He says he “enjoys the competition, hanging out with friends and the social network.” His journey has been frustrating but overcoming the challenges has been rewarding. He says, “It’s not how you get hurt. It’s how you recover.” John spoke proudly of his fellow athletes at the tournament: “These guys are all champions!”

During Aug. 10 thru 13, John and 54 other athletes competed in the 34th Annual PNW Sectional Wheelchair Tennis Championships, in Salem OR.

Some of the athletes came from out of state. I had the pleasure of meeting two other PVA members; Randy (Idaho) and Steve (Arizona). John played 5 matches (3 singles and 2 doubles). During singles, he lost in the Semi-Finals and in doubles they won the Consolation round.



If you’re interested in learning how to play wheelchair tennis, you may give John a call at 503-680-9497, visit: www.nwwheelchairtennis.org, or call Salem Tennis & Swim Club (STSC) at 503-363-2424 and ask for Sam. On Thursdays there is a clinic from 11am to 1pm at STSC with Sam. The courts are open for a couple hours afterwards for play. On Mondays, John plays doubles outside at Wilsonville Memorial Park (29600SW Park Place Wilsonville). We would love for you to join us on the court!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charles Abernathy	9/2	Larry Rilling	9/26
George Weathers`	9/2	Jeffrey Watkins	9/26
Michael Angerinos	9/3	Michael Bigsby	9/27
Gregory Pearce	9/3	John Siemssen	9/28
Henry "Evan" Burroughs	9/4	Naomia Gardner	9/29
Samuel Learn	9/5	Kristy McNulty	9/29
William Smith	9/5	Todd Walters	9/29
Darrel Von	9/5	Charles Demoss	10/4
Donald Boss	9/6	Julie Pollard	10/4
Michael Hayford	9/7	Douglas King	10/8
James Bender	9/10	Travis Nelson	10/9
Michelle Beech	9/11	Bradley Barton	10/11
Ronald Hedlind	9/12	Matthew Denny	10/18
Colin Dye	9/13	Jerry Ryan	10/19
Brad Gardner	9/14	Gilbert Arendt	10/20
William Kincaid	9/15	Shawn Kellar	10/20
Mary Porter	9/15	Albert Bocanegra	10/21
Carlton Herron	9/18	Linda Adams	10/24
Wendy Soto Peinado	9/19	Jerome Brewer	10/26
Cara Overstreet	9/20	Keith Wingfield	10/26
Martin Campos	9/21	Dennis Hooper	10/27
David Summers	9/21	Stephanie Hartzell	10/28
Jennifer Binder	9/22	Steven Murphy	10/29
Lisa Hurt	9/24	Larry VonSchell	10/29
Andrea Harris	9/25	Mike Rosenbalm	10/30
Kenneth Townsend	9/25		



Government Relations Update



Don Hedlind at PVA Tri-State Gold Cup Golf Tournament



By: Don Hedlind – Government Relations Director

Are you an advocate? We need our Representatives to pass our Veteran bills. A vital tool from PVA National is available to everyone who has a vested interest in getting Congress to pass our legislation. I am an advocate for you. However, I'm just one voice but as a larger constituency we're a much louder, larger, and more informed one. Politicos are listening and looking for support for a particular bill or act from their constituency.

There is a new advocacy training course at pva.org. Learn the fundamentals of government, the legislative process, understanding the issues and becoming a change agent. Who, what, where, when and why are the 5 W's of Legislative Advocacy and anyone can use them to make change happen. You can use the PVA Action Force contact platform to contact any of your Representatives state, local or federal. If you would like something done by a politician, understand they look at the number of requests they are getting for a certain subject or bill.

Urge our Senators and Congress members to vote for the Elizabeth Dole Home-Based Community Services Act this year. This act is

very important because it will increase the current VA home caregiving service payout vs the 100% nursing home one. VA currently will only pay you 65% of what they pay a nursing home for you to have in-home health caregiving services. It also will put the veteran in charge of employment of their caregivers. You become the employer and the caregiver becomes your employee. 90% of all veterans polled would like to stay in their homes while they receive care at home instead of going to a nursing home.

HISA grants need to be increased. Advocate for the passage of HR 2818 which will increase the current HISA from \$2,000 for non-service connected and \$5,000 for service-connected, to \$9,000 for all 50% or more disabled vets regardless of status. Whether you need a ramp, accessible bathroom, doorway widened etc...

HISA grant is available for the veteran to use up to three times. The original amount has not been increased since 2010.

If you've ever traveled on an airline, you know it's not the easiest experience for anyone in a

wheelchair. One of the things I worry about is when I get back into my wheelchair will it still be the same as it was before I left it? Wheelchairs, scooters, power wheelchairs are getting damaged in the process of putting them in the cargo hold, so when you get back into it you notice the damage. What happens if you get hurt in the transfer process or while on an airplane? Did you know that you currently have no recourse against the airlines? It's the only transportation industry that does not have a "right of action." Is this fair? I answer no. If you're unable to sue the airline for your injuries or for the damage to your wheelchair, what's their deterrent? Airlines because of the pressure that's been put on them have been waking up to the needs of disabled travelers and are finally receptive to listening to our needs. Let Congress know you support the Amendments to the Air Carrier Access Act.



Planes, trains, and automobiles, I would also add hotels, cruise ships and ports of call. When you advocate for yourself, you add to the numbers that the politicians receive back in their office; as these start to grow and pick up interest, politico's start paying attention, including the

staff in the office. Telling them "Your story" and why you need their help or support for a bill is how things are done.

We must advocate on behalf of ourselves and all Paralyzed SCI/D Vets or we may wake up one day to find our specialized system of care has disappeared and we are forced into non-specialized community healthcare. Congress must pass the CAREERS Act, to increase staff in VA and open a pool of money to train college and high school students to work in the VA. The BUILD Act will increase funds to build new VA Hospitals and clinics. We need new modern-day hospitals and specialized long-term care centers, let Congress know what you want and need. They are listening through the various mediums that are available to us of which PVA Action Force is one.

In Oregon there was a bill that would give veterans who are 100% service-connected a 100% property tax reduction. The bill died in the Finance Committee because they couldn't find a way to fund it. If there was more interest in it, it may have passed. These savings could have translated into millions in property tax savings for veterans throughout the state. Why does Idaho have this deduction in place and not Oregon you say? Because Veterans in Oregon are not lobbying for it. So next year when it comes back, jump on the bandwagon, contact whomever you need to get it out of committee and voted on by the Senate. As your GRD, I will keep you informed of what you can do in the future.

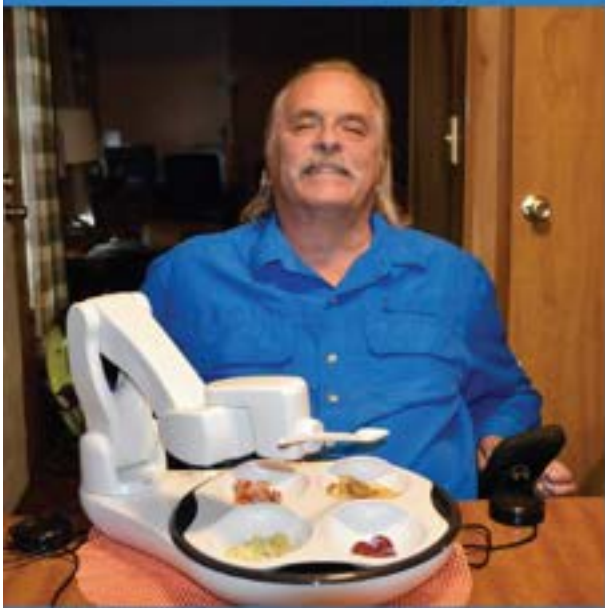
Till Next Time, Stay Frosty My Friends

New Building Fundraiser Update

By: Don Hedlind – New Building Fundraiser Committee

Our Chapter office has been on Silverton Rd in Salem since 1996, the time seemed right to find us a new home in "Small-Town USA." Silverton, known as the Garden City, is just that, and we look forward to being a part of this Community. We recently attended their annual Homer Davenport Festival. "The Flywheelers" a local car club, had a car show in our new parking lot, this brought in members of the community and raised awareness for our Chapter's remodeling needs. Thank You Flywheelers for that, we had a lot of fun with you! It was a great welcome event!!!





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NRA

PVA Tri-State Air Gun Competition

July 21st, Top Scores:

Larry Cartales	91 pts
Vincent Cartales	86 pts
Ken Corneilus	75 pts

All Members
Friends &
Family are
welcome to
participate!!!

Free Event!
Win Prizes!!!
Snack Provided!

August 18th, Top Scores:

Larry Gardner	82 pts
Dennis Harbour	55pts

Congratulations to our winners!!!

Thank you to everyone who came out!

We look forward to seeing you at our next competition

October Date TBD

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on all the fun!

Please call the office at 503-362-7998 for more info.



SPORTS

Corner



By: Larry Gardner – President

The Pacific International Trap Shooting Association has been doing very few scheduled shoots during the last three years. Mainly due to inflation of many areas, and time will tell when or if it gets any better. The multiplexes are still going on once a month usually the first Sunday.

Sports Director along with a Trap Team Coordinator to help build the team back up.

The Air Rifle team has been doing really well. The team meets once every month at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club. It is an indoor range with 10 to 15 people showing up for the event. The Chapter provides the air rifles, pellets, targets, snacks and drinks, as well as, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for the winners. It's all about the competition and having a good time together. If you're interested in trying this sport, please give us a call, we will be very glad to have you join us!

September 11th will be our last Deep Sea Fishing trip for the year. It is a Salmon fishing trip.

Check in time is 6am at Dockside Charters in Deopt Bay. We only offer one salmon trip a year so call the office and get signed up early for this trip. Remember you must



The Tri-State Chapter is looking into doing the PITA shoots and also the WRITA shoots to increase the shooting program, along with other suggestions that may work for us. The Chapter really needs a

be signed up 10 days before the trip to be on the boat. (See page 17 for more info.)

The Chapter has lots of other sports opportunities but we are in need of coordinators to make them happen, so if interested in helping our veterans please contact us with your ideas.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate our local athletes who competed in this year's National Veterans Wheelchair Games. They all were amazing! I would also like to thank their families and caregivers because they would not have been successful without your support. I look forward to cheering you on in New Orleans.

Congratulations to the following athletes who earned medals:

Bill Gray:

Bronze Trapshooting

Michael Hayford:

Gold Backstroke

Gold Shot Put

Silver Archery

Bronze Air Pistol

Don Hedlind:

Gold Bowling

Silver 9 Ball

Dennis Hooper:

Gold Boccia

Gold Archery

Bronze Bowling,

Bronze 9 Ball

Steven Murphy

Gold Handcycle

Silver Air Pistol

Rico Roman:

Gold Basketball

H. Ryan:

Bronze Air Rifle

David Summers:

Gold Backstroke

Gold Freestyle Swimming

Silver Handcycle

Bronze Air Rifle

Bronze Trap Shooting

Silver Adaptive fitness

Roger Titus:

Silver Power Soccer

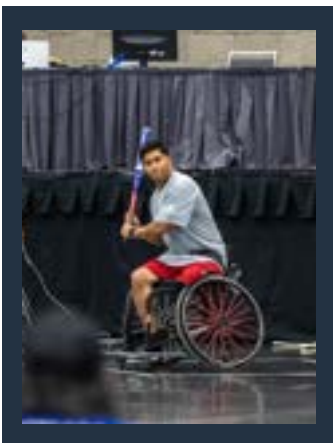
Tim Vixay:

Silver Boccia

Gold 9 Ball

Gold Slalom

Gold Rugby





★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **SAVE *the* DATE** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

LOCATION: SALEM YMCA

VETERANS



STAND ★ DOWN



EMAIL ROSY MACIAS FOR MORE INFORMATION -
rosa.macias@va.gov

Linn County Oregon Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, November 11, 2023,

parade begins at 11 am

In Downtown Albany

If you would like to help scan the QR code and make your donation.



Please call the office to
reserve your spot on PVA
Tri-State's float!

Come Join the Fun!!!

(Scan to donate to the Albany Veterans Day Parade)

Thank You and enjoy the parade

For Sponsorship and entries visit our website:

linncountyveteransdayparade.org

Southern OR Ambassador Report



Miss Douglas County Fair at Bowman Pond Member Meeting

By: Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador



Where do I begin! There were so many things for our members to do in June and July. I am sure you all have great tans!

Some of the highlights for me, were the Deep Sea Fishing trip in June and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, in July. The folks at Dockside Charters, treat our members wonderfully. I got to meet some of our fervent fishing members. We will be eating rockfish and crab for a long time. The weather was awesome and so was the fishing!



Our Tri-State Team won 26 medals at the NVWG in Portland and at least half of the medals were gold! I am so proud and honored of the team our Chapter members put together. There were many great stories from the games. I am looking forward to the next NVWG in New

Orleans. I hope our Tri-State Chapter members come out and win in droves!



I was blessed to experience some whitewater rafting on the North Umpqua with Source One Serenity.org. This group really knows how to get veterans out and about. The water was darn cold, but refreshing. Well, it is when it is in your face, at least. We always enjoy lunches on the shore of this very special river. It was not as crowded as I had expected. Please give these folks a call if you want to work on your tan more.

Your tan won't take a hit at Bowman Pond in beautiful Winston, Oregon. Our member meeting for Southern Oregon, has been held at this gorgeous enclave on private property for the last three years. We keep coming back to this wonderful

location amongst the shady oaks to get away from the hot sun. Our members enjoy the free fishing, the babbling waterfall, the cool views, and the peaceful and quiet setting. I saw a lot of smiling faces while eating. I cannot wait until the next one!



I also took a break and put the boat in the water at splendid Cottage Grove Lake. This lake is a lot bigger than I thought. It is only a few miles off I-5, in Southern Lane County. Now I will say, the three docks are not the most wheelchair friendly. The material the decks are made of, are very worn, so they have very little grip for wheels. I can't imagine how slick they would be after a rain. But, the water was refreshing and there was a lot of room to play. It was our first time there.

For folks in our region, there are several events coming up. Our Chapter had a booth again at the Douglas County Fair, August 9-12. Next, was the Blackberry Festival, August 18-20, in quaint Sutherlin, Oregon. It is always

great to seeing friendly faces and opportunities to promote our Chapter!

If you want an activity that's a little more relaxing, Source One Serenity hosts various camping and fishing trips throughout the year. You can visit their website at: <https://sourceoneserenity.org>, learn more about them and sign up for a future event. Everything is taken care of, even if you need camping gear.



I did want to mention a new event your Chapter will be participating in. Oktoberfest, in Winston. It is a veteran centered event that raises awareness for suicide prevention. This important issue can use all the funding that is raised towards this. It is September 23, with all funds going to numerous veteran centered, non-profits. There will be all kinds of entertainment; live music; bingo; wiener dog races; brew garden and much more. I am sure our other authors will tell you about the rest of the stuff going on. We are your vessel for veteran based knowledge. Drink it up!

**Congratulations to Brad
for Winning the
2023 CF Moto ATV!!!!**

**Winning ticket was purchased
at Douglas County Fair in 2022!**

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 BOD Meeting	29	30

 **Office Closed**

Save the Date

- Aug 25 - Sept 4 Oregon State Fair
- Sept 10 Red, White & Blue Golf Tournament
Santiam Golf Club
- Sept 11 Salmon Fishing
Check in at 6am, Depoe Bay
- Sept 16 Annual Members Banquet
Chinook Winds, Lincoln City
- Sept 23-24 Winston Oktoberfest, Winston

- Nov 11 Albany Veterans Day Parade
- Nov 18-19 Show Biz Holiday Exp
Oregon State Fairgrounds

****Don't forget:
The Fiscal Calendar Year
ENDS September 30th
and BEGINS OCT 1st!****

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Columbus Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 BOD Meeting	27	28
29	30	31				



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2023

WORKPLACE ACCOMMODATIONS



Tyneeta Silmon, a Navy Veteran, reached out to the Veterans Career Program (VCP) for assistance in finding new employment - her current job was becoming too much to manage and she was thinking about changing career fields. After some investigation, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), Joel Hoots, learned that Tyneeta really liked

her current job as a field service specialist; but was having difficulty getting the job done and required some accommodations to allow her to continue working in her field.

Joel suggested that they look at keeping her current job and going through the process of requesting a reasonable accommodation. Tyneeta scheduled appointments with her doctor to get the evidence she needed along with some restrictions recommended by her doctor. She provided this information to her supervisor and human resources department; and they were able to discuss long-term accommodations that they could put into place for Tyneeta so that she could continue working in her position.

Tyneeta shared that she was so glad that she reached out to VCP to discuss her work situation; and was thankful that Joel helped her work through the accommodation process so she didn't have to change career fields. She explained that her employer was understanding in the process and worked with her to find a solution that worked for both sides. Tyneeta noted that she kept hearing the VRC's voice in her head saying "don't quit your job," and she was able to make it through. She stated that she would have quit if not for the accommodations she received.

The Job Accommodation Network (<https://askjan.org/>) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment.

MONTHLY IMPACT

13 Client Placements

- 12 Paid Employment
- 1 Education/Training
- 0 Volunteer
 - 11 Veterans
 - 0 Active Duty
 - 2 Family Members
 - 0 Caregivers
 - 2 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 10 clients placed in full-time employment was \$82,612; and the average income for the 2 clients placed in part-time work was \$7,800.



2023 NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



Members of the PVA Veterans Career Program staff had the honor and pleasure of attending the 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games (<https://wheelchairgames.org/>) July 4-9 in Portland, OR.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) is the world's largest annual wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event solely for military veterans. The event demonstrates the unstoppable character of veterans; and seeks to foster wider respect and opportunities for all people with disabilities.

The NVWG is open to all U.S. veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputations, multiple sclerosis, or other central neurological conditions who require a wheelchair for athletic competition. Every year, hundreds of American heroes from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the post-9/11 era compete in this celebration of sport, courage and camaraderie. We hope to see you next year in New Orleans, LA (July 25-30, 2024).



PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram

POWERED BY:





Washington Update

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

August 18, 2023

Volume 31, Number 15

Check out the PVAction Force page to view alerts and a list of key legislation.

AUGUST RECESS IS OUR TIME FOR ACTION

Congress has officially departed for its August recess, which traditionally is a five plus week-long break from legislative activity that allows members of the House and Senate to reconnect with their constituents, spend time with family, and travel independently or as part of congressional delegations on diplomatic or fact-finding efforts. Much of the time, they will be working out of their state and local offices. During the recess, we are running a number of campaigns on key legislative priorities through PVAction Force. This is the time when action is needed to ensure support for issues important to PVA members and their families.

One of the key issues demanding our attention is the Justice for ALS Veterans Act, S. 1590/H.R. 3790. This legislation aims to provide surviving spouses of veterans who died of service-connected ALS with additional compensation. By advocating for this legislation, we can have a significant impact on the lives of those affected by this devastating disease.

Additionally, let us not forget about the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, S. 141/H.R. 542. In the final days before August recess, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee marked up this top PVA priority. Action on H.R. 542 had been delayed since the last Congress because of a very high price tag placed on it by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concerning the cap on VA-purchased home care. This bill seeks to improve access to quality home care services for our veterans and their families, and we have a fighting chance to get the legislation passed.

Furthermore, let us not overlook the FAA Reauthorization. The House and Senate versions of the reauthorization include important provisions for passengers with disabilities, including improved training requirements and required further study into in-cabin wheelchair restraints. The House's bill also includes elements of the PVA-supported Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) (H.R. 1267). We support adding amendments based on the ACAA (S. 545) to the Senate bill that would improve the disability-related complaint process and improve disability access standards.

Last, but certainly not least, we need action on the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, H.R. 2818. This legislation aims to empower disabled veterans by providing them with increased mobility options through home modifications. The VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant has not been adjusted since 2010. HISA needs rates that are raised annually to offset the associated costs of rising prices.

Now is the time to make our voices heard! Together, let's ensure that these critical bills receive the attention they deserve during this recess period, so that we can keep pushing access forward.

DEFENSE POLICY BILLS ADVANCING

The House and Senate passed their respective versions of the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) immediately prior to the August recess. Because it sets the annual policy agenda and authorizes funding for the Department of Defense, it is viewed as a "must pass" piece of legislation each year. It normally contains thousands of defense-related provisions, but every now and then, lawmakers successfully attach veterans-related issues to these bills.

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For the most part, that was not the case this year. Lawmakers declined to include amendments that would have increased VA mileage reimbursement rates; allowed veterans with combat-related disabilities and less than 20 years of creditable military service to receive their full retirement pay and VA disability compensation; increased baseline rates for VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC); allowed surviving spouses of veterans with ALS to receive the "DIC Kicker;" and raised VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations grant rates.

The Senate did agree, however, to include language increasing the minor construction project threshold for VA construction from \$20 to \$30 million, and require VA to develop a process to ensure that the amount keeps pace with construction costs in the future. Passage of this provision in the final bill would greatly assist the VA in its efforts to more quickly upgrade facilities including VA's spinal cord injuries and disorders system of care.

When Congress returns in the fall, representatives from both chambers will begin working to resolve their differences in a conference conducted

behind closed doors. A key area where the two chambers disagree is the amount of total spending authorized by the bill. The Senate's version calls for \$886 billion, which matches the debt ceiling deal Congress approved in June. The House's version calls for \$11 billion less. This disparity is expected to be one of the toughest points to resolve during their negotiations.

HOUSE VA SUBCOMMITTEES ADVANCE VETERANS LEGISLATION

Shortly before the House broke for the August recess, the House Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittees on Health, Economic Opportunity, and Oversight and Investigations marked up more than two dozen pieces of legislation affecting veterans. One of the bills marked up was H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act. The bill was amended during the markup to allow VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program to provide a single rate of \$9,000 for all new users, regardless of VA disability status. The bill also directs VA to increase the benefit annually in the same manner as its other home modification programs, and allows veterans to use money from the grant up to three different times.

Lawmakers also looked at H.R. 1278, the Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act, which would increase the Beneficiary Travel mileage reimbursement rate for eligible veterans with service-connected disabilities and health conditions. In 2010, Congress passed legislation to set the mileage reimbursement rate at a minimum of \$0.41 per mile which, at the time, was comparable to rates federal employees were reimbursed for work-related travel. The 2010 law also gave the VA Secretary the authority to increase rates going forward to be consistent with the mileage rate for federal employees for the use of their private vehicles on official business, as established by the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA). However, since the enactment of this law, the VA travel mileage reimbursement rate has remained stagnant, even though gas prices and other costs like auto insurance and vehicle maintenance costs have increased significantly. Meanwhile, the GSA rate has risen over time to \$0.625 per mile. The DRIVE Act would require the VA to ensure its Beneficiary Travel reimbursement rate is at least equal to the GSA reimbursement rate for federal employees. This would help ensure VA's reimbursement rates keep up with the cost of

inflation and properly account for fluctuations in gas prices over time.

A third bill, H.R. 1815, the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act, would help veterans live more independently. Currently, the VA can refer veterans to assisted living facilities, but it cannot directly pay for that care. The Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act would create a three-year pilot program at six VISNs, including at least two program sites in rural areas and two in state veterans homes to test the benefit of having VA pay for this care. Veterans eligible for the pilot would include those already receiving nursing home-level care paid for by the VA and those who are eligible to receive assisted living services or nursing home care. At the conclusion of the pilot program, participating veterans would be given the option to continue receiving assisted living services at their assigned site, paid for by the VA.

All 26 bills reviewed during the three hearings were forwarded out of the subcommittees. A list of all the bills reviewed can be found [here](#).

ACCESS BOARD ISSUES FINAL RULE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The U.S. Access Board recently issued a final rule on accessibility standards for public rights-of-way. The standards ensure that newly constructed or altered facilities or routes used by pedestrians are readily accessible and useable by people with disabilities. The standards cover pedestrian access routes, including sidewalks and shared-use paths; accessible pedestrian signals; crosswalks; transit stops, boarding areas, and transit shelters; and on-street parking. The Access Board's enforcement authority extends only to federal facilities. The standards will not apply to states, counties, or cities until standards are adopted by the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Transportation.

DOJ ISSUES NPRM ON ADA TITLE II WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP ACCESSIBILITY

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for website and mobile app accessibility requirements under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under Title II, state and local governments' services, programs, and activities must be accessible to people with disabilities. The NPRM proposes specific technical

accessibility standards for services, programs, and activities offered by state and local government entities to the public through the web and mobile apps. Members of the public can submit comments until October 3.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS WITH DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES

On July 28, the Amtrak Board of Directors held their annual meeting with disability rights advocates. The meeting included updates on Amtrak's efforts to increase accessibility for passengers with disabilities, including passengers who use mobility assistive devices. Amtrak regularly meets with disability rights advocates, including PVA. During the meeting, advocates raised issues such as accessibility on the long-distance trains; evacuation procedures for people with disabilities; accessibility features on new trainsets, such as the accessible restrooms; accessible parking spaces at stations; and other topics important to the community. Amtrak will continue to hold their quarterly meetings with the disability rights community to provide updates.

ACCESS BOARD HOSTS PUBLIC TOWN HALL MEETING IN BALTIMORE

On July 25, the U.S. Access Board, the federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards, hosted a public town hall meeting in Baltimore. The public meeting served as an opportunity for the agency to provide updates on rulemakings and allow individuals to make statements directly to the Board. The agency reported on the status of pending rulemakings, including the upcoming release of the final rule for the low transfer height of medical diagnostic equipment. A recording of the meeting is online.

It's important to remember that the Access Board's accessibility requirements only apply to federal agencies under the Architectural Barriers Act, the law that applies to the accessibility of federal buildings and facilities. The Board's standards do not apply to state and local government entities nor private businesses under the Americans with Disabilities Act or other federal laws unless adopted by the enforcing agency, e.g., the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation, and U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services. Even where the Access Board's standards do not apply, however, the rules are generally taken into consideration when the enforcing agencies develop their own requirements.

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON AVS

On July 26, the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a legislative hearing on autonomous vehicles (AVs). The hearing titled, "Self-Driving Vehicle Legislative Framework," discussed the ways AVs can enhance safety and improve lives, including for people with disabilities. Committee members are currently in negotiations to introduce a bill that will regulate AVs and safety standards.

Prior to the hearing, the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) submitted a letter to the Subcommittee. The letter outlined how accessible AVs can serve as a vital transportation option for people with disabilities. PVA earnestly advocates for AVs that are accessible for wheelchair users. PVA Advocacy Attorney Danica Gonzalves is a co-chair of the CCD Transportation Task Force. PVA signed on to the letter to support the deployment of wheelchair-accessible AVs. During the hearing, representatives reinforced the importance of accessible AVs and the letter was introduced and entered twice into the hearing record.

STATUS OF THE FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

On July 20, the House passed H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This legislation would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for five years. We are pleased that the legislation includes several important provisions that would improve the air travel experience for people with disabilities. Some of these provisions include training requirements for assisting passengers with limited mobility and properly stowing assistive devices; improving the Department of Transportation's (DOT) complaint process; and addressing the need for more access standards. The bill also requires continued study into safe and secure in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems; and for DOT to perform a more in-depth analysis of mishandled wheel-

chairs as reported by airlines. Additionally, the legislation reauthorizes the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee and includes a focus on the needs of passengers with disabilities in evacuations. The bill includes elements of the PVA-supported Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) (H.R. 1267) and the MOBILE Act (H.R. 3082).

The Senate's version of the FAA Reauthorization Act, S. 1939, also includes several disability-related provisions, including elements of the MOBILE Act (S. 1459). We support adding amendments based on the ACAA (S. 545) that would improve the disability-related complaint process and improve disability access standards. Committee action on the bill has been delayed.

The current FAA authorization expires on Sept 30. Thus, it is likely that Congress will need to pass an extension to allow more time to address policy differences that have prevented further action in the Senate. The House and Senate will also need to address variations between their versions of the reauthorization.

NEWS OF NOTE

U.S. Access Board Announces Passing of Former Executive Director Larry Roffee

On August 10, the U.S. Access Board announced the passing of Larry Roffee. Mr. Roffee was appointed Executive Director of the Access Board in November 1988 and held the position for 20 years before retiring from federal service in August 2008. Mr. Roffee served in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970 and was wounded in action in May 1970.

Following his service in Vietnam, Mr. Roffee worked for PVA and at all levels of the Selective Service System. In 1987, he served as the Program Manager for the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities before leading the Board as Executive Director.

After retiring from the Board, Mr. Roffee opened LMR Consulting where he provided consulting services on disability policy, accessibility in the built environment, and federal management. On August 9, Mr. Roffee passed peacefully in Billings, Montana, while on a cross-country trip visiting national parks with his wife Maggie.

Amtrak To Hold Public Meeting and Accept Comments on Long Distance Trains

Amtrak is hosting a hybrid public meeting on

August 30 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ET and accepting feedback on its long distance trains and the future of accessible train travel. The public can attend the meeting in-person at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Registration for in-person attendance ends Aug. 25 and virtual attendance registration is open until Aug.30. Feedback and comments will be accepted until Sept. 7.

TRAINING AND COMMITTEE ACTION

NASCIC Online Training Available to Facilitate Participation in SCI Research

The North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCIC) recently developed a free online course to present information and resources necessary to understand the complexities of a spinal cord injury (SCI). This will ultimately aid individuals with SCI and caregivers to serve as research advocates, as well as allow SCI researchers and health care providers to effectively partner with the SCI community.

This information is condensed and presented in video form with additional supplementary material. The topics of each module are:

- Module 1 = Introduction to Research Advocacy
- Module 2 = Understanding the Research Process and R&D Decision-Makers
- Module 3 = Addressing Historical Challenges for SCI Studies
- Module 4 = SCI Biology Part I
- Module 5 = SCI Biology Part II – Aging with an SCI
- Module 6 = Neuroprotection (Acute application)
- Module 7 = Regeneration (Neurorepair)
- Module 8 = Cell Replacement (Neuroreplacement)
- Module 9 = Neuroplasticity
- Module 10 = Quality of Life
- Module 11 = SCI 101 for Researchers
- Module 12 = Getting Started!

Registration for the course is free for everyone and can be accessed on the NASCIC website at: <https://nascic.org/courses/nascic-community-engagement-program-cep/>. They also have a Course Guide that may help with navigating the website and course features.

PVA assisted in the development of the training. We will host a webinar in October to provide further information about the course and encourage member participation.



Membership Application

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. **Complete and return application to the chapter of choice or by mail/email to:** Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) members@pva.org. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305
First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Social Security Number: _____ Male Female
Race/Ethnicity:
 Asian/Pacific Islander African American/Descent Hispanic/Latino
 Native American/Alaskan Native Caucasian
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- DD Form 214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).

Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.

Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

Do you have a spinal cord injury or disease? Yes No If disease, specify: _____

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? Yes No

If Paralyzed Veterans of America is your accredited representative, do you permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to PVA National Membership Department relative to your membership eligibility? Yes No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I have read and meet the qualifications and I understand that my membership could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____



Physician's Statement Form

_____ is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury or disease.

His/her diagnosis is:

- Paraplegia
- Tetraplegia
- Brown Sequard Syndrome
- Cauda Equina Syndrome
- ALS
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Transverse Myelitis
- Other (please specify) _____

Physician's Signature

Physician's Name

Physician's Title

Physician's Phone/Email

Date Signed



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter
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